

## 37. NOMENCLATURAL NOTES ON AN INDIAN PLANT

The genus *Senecio* L. finds world wide distribution except Antarctica. It has close affinities with the genus *Ligularia* Cass. The generic limits of the two may, however, be distinguished on the basis of following characters (Jeffrey *et al.* 1977, Jeffrey and Chen Yi Ling, 1984, Nordenstam and Rechinger 1989).

- 1a. Leaf-base exauriculate; margins of lamina not revolute. Filament column dilated at base. Anther collar balusterform with enlarged marginal basal cells; endothelial tissue, cells elongate. *Senecio*
- 1b. Leaves with vaginate sheathing bases; margins of lamina revolute. Filament column cylindric, not dilated at base. Anther collar cylindric or obconic, without enlarged marginal basal cells; endothelial tissue cell wall thickenings polarised, cells short ..  
..... *Ligularia*

Based on above characters, many species of *Senecio* L. have recently been transferred to the genus *Ligularia* Cass. (Rao *et al.* 1988). *Senecio yakla* described by Clarke (1876) from Sikkim, takes its name from the pass known as Yak-La in East Sikkim. Hooker (1881) reduced it to the synonymy of *Senecio amplexicaulis* Wall. ex Clarke; the latter is presently being considered synonymous to *Ligularia amplexicaulis* DC. (Rao *et al.* 1988). Smith (1913) treated *S. yakla* as a distinct species mainly characterised in the involucre bracts being 16-18, acute or obtuse, c. 1 cm long, connate below, slightly pubescent

and ligule being 16-18, broadly obovate or elliptic, hardly exceeding the involucre bracts. In *S. amplexicaulis* Wall. ex Clarke the involucre bracts vary from 10-12 and ligule 7-8, exceeding involucre bracts, linear-lanceolate. To determine the taxonomic status and systematic position of *S. yakla* Clarke, we examined some specimens of both species at Central National Herbarium (CAL) and concluded that *S. yakla* deserves specific recognition as delimited by Smith (1913), and since it comes within the present generic limits of *Ligularia* Cass., it is proposed to transfer it to the latter as under:

***Ligularia yakla*** (Clarke) V. Singh & P. Singh *comb. nov.*

*Senecio yakla* Clarke, Comp. Ind. 204. 1876; W.W. Smith, Rec. Bot. Surv. India 4: 384. 1913. *S. amplexicaulis* Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3: 348. 1881, *pro parte*, non Wall. ex Clarke 1876.

**Specimen studied:** INDIA: Sikkim; Changu, 3660 m 26th Oct. 1910, *Ribu & Rhomoo* 4370 (CAL); Chola range, 3960-4270 m, 22nd July 1910, W.W. Smith 3697 (CAL); Tanka la, 4570 m, 3rd Aug. 1892, G.A. Gammie 536 (CAL).

**Distribution:** India (Sikkim) endemic.

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38. DESTRUCTION OF *CUSCUTA REFLEXA* ROXB. BY THE RHESUS MACAQUE *MACACA MULATTA* (ZIMMERMANN)

On the afternoon of 26th November 1993, I observed a troop of Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta* (Zimmermann) feeding on *Cuscuta reflexa* Roxb. inside the Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, near the eastern wall of the park. Three large sized *Zizyphus mauritiana* Lamk. trees harboured a massive growth of the phanerogamic total stem parasitic twiner *Cuscuta*. Members of the macaque troops were present on all the three *Zizyphus* plants and were

plucking and devouring the *Cuscuta* tender growth.

It is worth placing on record Rhesus Macaque as one of the potential *Cuscuta* destroyers in nature.

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